(d) whether Gujarat Government/has sent the detailed report regarding revised estimated cost; and

(e) if so, the time by which the revised cost will be released to Government of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Union Government had in May 1993 accorded approval for construction of fishing harbour at Jakhau at a total cost of Rs. 1143.60 lakhs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme with 100 percent Central financial assistance.

(b) The State Government has reported that delay in obtaining environmental clearance is one of the reasons among others that have led to cost escalation.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Growth in agriculture sector

1252. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to data released by Central Statistical Organisation, there is modest growth in agriculture and allied services during 2007-08;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for low growth in the food grains during 2007-08; and

(d) the steps being taken for the growth of agriculture sector for the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) According to the data released by Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), growth rate of agriculture & allied sectors during 2007-08 at constant (1999-2000) prices was 4.5 per cent.

(c) Total foodgrains increased to 230.67 million tonnes in 2007-08 from 217.25 million tonnes in 2006-07 recording a growth of 6.16 per cent.

(d) Towards improving the growth in the agriculture sector, Government has taken the following steps:

- Launched the National Food Security Mission with an outlay of Rs.4,882 crore for the Eleventh Plan period (2007-08 to 2011-12). It aims to produce additional 10 million tonnes of rice, 8 million tonnes of wheat and 2 million tonnes of pulses by the end of the Eleventh Plan.
- Launched the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), with an outlay of Rs.25.000 crore for the 11th Plan period which aims at achieving 4% annual growth in the agriculture sector during the Plan period, through incentivising the States to invest more in agriculture sector.

Decline in the agricultural area

†1253. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a continuous decline in the agricultural area of the country due to which agricultural production is also declining gradually;

(b) whether Government has formed any scheme in the interest of agriculture in view of the above fact; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir. Following table shows the area and production of different crops during the years 2005-06 to 2007-08:

Crop	Area (Million Hectares)			Production (Million Tonnes)		
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08*	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Foodgrains	121.60	123.71	124.44	208.60	217.28	230.67
Oilseeds	27.86	26.51	26.55	27.98	24.29	28.83
Sugarcane	4.20	5.15	5.04	281.17	355.52	340.56
Cotton $	8.68	9.14	9.42	18.50	22.63	25.81
Jute and Mesta $$	0.90	0.94	0.96	10.84	11.27	11.18

* 4th advance estimates release on 09.07.2008

$ Production in thousand bales of 170 kg each.

$$ Production in thousand bales of 180 kg each.

The area and production of foodgrains and cotton show an increasing trend during the period 2005-06 to 2007-08, whereas area and production of oilseeds and sugarcane show fluctuating trend. The year-to-year fluctuations are mainly due to weather related factors.

(b) and (c) To increase the production of pulses, a centrally sponsored "Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize" (ISOPOM) is under implementation with effect from 01.04.2004 in 14 major pulses growing States in the country. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, distribution of seed minikits, infrastructure development, block demonstrations on improved technology, integrated pest management, weedicides, distribution of sprinkler sets and farmers' training for increasing production and productivity of pulses.

To increase the production of Foodgrains in the country, the Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) in rice, wheat and coarse cereals based cropping systems have been under implementation since October, 2000.

In order to further increase the production of rice, wheat and pulses, the Government has launched National Food Security Mission (NFSM) from Rabi 2007-08. The NFSM aims at increasing the production of rice by 10 million tonnes, wheat by 8 million tonnes and pulses by 2 million tonnes in the targeted districts of the country, by the end of the 11th Plan i.e. 2011-2012.